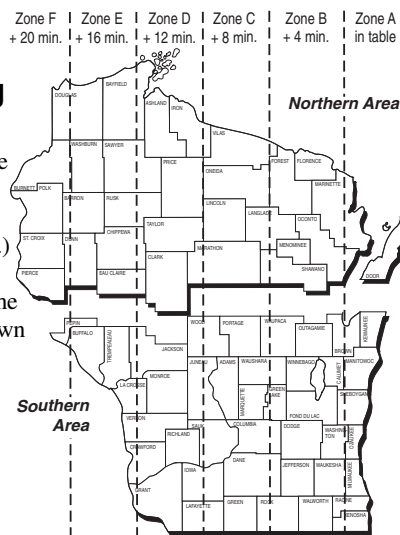


Hunting Hours

To determine the opening (A.M.) and closing (P.M.) times for all zones, add the minutes shown (see map) to the times listed in the table below.



	Southern Area Hours		Northern Area Hours	
September 2007				
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
5	5:49	7:40	5:46	7:41
6	5:50	7:38	5:47	7:39
7	5:51	7:36	5:48	7:37
8	5:52	7:34	5:49	7:35
9	5:53	7:33	5:51	7:33
10	5:54	7:31	5:52	7:31
11	5:55	7:29	5:53	7:30
12	5:57	7:27	5:54	7:28
13	5:58	7:25	5:56	7:26
14	5:59	7:24	5:57	7:24
15	6:00	7:22	5:58	7:22
16	6:01	7:20	5:59	7:20
17	6:02	7:18	6:01	7:18
18	6:03	7:16	6:02	7:16
19	6:04	7:14	6:03	7:14
20	6:06	7:13	6:04	7:12
21	6:07	7:11	6:06	7:10
22	6:08	7:09	6:07	7:08
23	6:09	7:07	6:08	7:06
24	6:10	7:05	6:09	7:04
25	6:11	7:03	6:10	7:02
26	6:12	7:01	6:12	7:00
27	6:14	7:00	6:13	6:59
28	6:15	6:58	6:14	6:57
29	6:16	6:56	6:16	6:55
30	6:17	6:54	6:17	6:53
October 2007				
1	6:18	6:52	6:18	6:51
2	6:19	6:51	6:19	6:49
3	6:20	6:49	6:21	6:47
4	6:22	6:47	6:22	6:45
5	6:23	6:45	6:23	6:43
6	6:24	6:43	6:24	6:41
7	6:25	6:42	6:26	6:39
8	6:26	6:40	6:27	6:38
9	6:28	6:38	6:28	6:36

DNR Service Centers

Office hours may vary by location. Contact the Service Center for information on office hours.

South Central Region (Fitchburg)	608/275-3266
Madison (Central Office)	608/266-2621
Dodgeville	608/935-3368
Horicon	920/387-7860
Janesville	608/743-4800
Poynette	608/635-8110
Southeast Region (Milwaukee)	414/263-8500
Plymouth	920/892-8756
Sturtevant	262/884-2300
Waukesha	262/574-2100
Northeast Region (Green Bay)	920/662-5100
Oshkosh	920/424-3050
Peshtigo	715/582-5000
Sturgeon Bay	920/746-2860
Wautoma	920/787-4686
West Central Region (Eau Claire)	715/839-3700
Baldwin	715/684-2914
Black River Falls	715/284-1400
La Crosse	608/785-9000
Wausau	715/359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids	715/421-7800
Northern Region (Spooner)	715/635-2101
Antigo	715/627-4317
Ashland	715/685-2900
Cumberland	715/822-3590
Park Falls	715/762-3204
Hayward	715/634-2688
Ladysmith	715/532-3911
Rhineland	715/365-8900
Superior	715/392-7988
Woodruff	715/356-5211

Cover Photo:

Mike Kendzierski with his first bear during 2006 season. The hunt was made possible by the Youth Transfer program that allows hunters to transfer their Class A Bear kill permit to a youth.

"A wise hunting partner pointed out that I should take advantage of hunting opportunities while my son is around. Once they leave high school there is no telling where life and fortune may take them."—Tom Kendzierski (Photo by Tom Kendzierski)



The contents of this pamphlet were prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the printing costs were paid for by the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association.

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Trego, WI 54888
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Visit our website at: www.wbha.info

2007

Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations



Season Dates

Zone A, Subzone A1, and Zone B:

September 5 – September 11

- with aid of dogs only

September 12 – October 2

- with aid of dogs
- with aid of bait
- with other methods

October 3 – October 9

- with aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

Zone C:

September 5 – October 9

- With aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

Visit the DNR website at
dnr.wi.gov



Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
PUB-WM-197 2007

2007 Bear Hunting Regulations Letter

Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,

Interest in bear hunting continues to grow in Wisconsin. For the 2006 season there were over 73,000 applications submitted for a preference point or Class A permit. This compares to approximately 66,700 applications in 2005 and 61,726 applications in 2004. Wisconsin is known as a state with good numbers of bear, big bear, and abundant hunting opportunities.

Permit levels have been raised slightly for the 2007 bear hunting season. There are a total of 4,405 Class A permits available statewide. The numbers of Class A permits available for each zone are as follows: A1- 550, A- 1,680, B- 615, and C-1,560.

In 2006 Wisconsin's bear population was estimated at approximately 12,850, slightly above the statewide goal of 11,300 bear. A healthy bear population and a poor mast crop over much of northern part of the state were factors that contributed to a higher than normal hunter success rate in 2006, 68%. Over much of the state, hunters reported that bears hit their baits throughout the season. Hunters harvested just over 3,000 bears in 2006.

Two thousand seven is the second and final year of a statewide bear study being conducted by the UW-Madison in coordination with the DNR and Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. The goal of this study is to develop a more precise statewide estimate of Wisconsin's bear population. Again this year successful hunters are asked to submit a portion of one of the bear's ribs at the time of registration. The information collected during this study will influence bear management decisions in Wisconsin so hunter participation is very important.

With the continued dedication of hunters and sound bear population management, we can look forward to another great season in 2007.

Have a safe and successful season.

Brad Koele

Assistant Big Game Specialist

Support Ethical Responsible Hunting

Report Violations
Call 1-800-847-9367
1-800-TIP-WDNR

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential
(This is not an information number.)

*Conservation wardens may enter private lands
while performing their duties.*

New for 2007

- Those hunters who have been drawn for a Class A bear license can now purchase their license at any time. However, licenses purchased after the opening day are not valid until three days after the purchase (Example: A license purchased on a Monday is valid on Thursday).
- The DNR will defer the use of a Class A bear license approval for members of the armed forces or national guard who are on active duty and unable to hunt. Contact a local DNR Service Center for more information.
- No person may hunt bear during the statewide Youth Gun Deer Hunt on October 6 and 7 unless at least 50% of the person's outer clothing above the waist is colored blaze orange. A hat, if worn, must be at least 50% blaze orange.

Licenses and Permits

To apply for a Class A bear license or bear preference point for the 2008 Season

- To be considered for a Class A Bear License in 2008, an applicant must pay a \$3.00 application fee and complete and submit the Class A Bear Hunting License application by **December 10, 2007.**
- Applicants who will not be bear hunting in 2008 but would like a preference point **do not need** to complete an application. Applicants will only have to pay a \$3.00 application fee by December 10, 2007 to automatically be awarded a preference point. ***If an application is submitted and you are selected in the drawing, you will lose all preference points, even if you do not purchase a Class A License.**

Class A License

(Residents: \$49, Non-Residents: \$251)

Formerly called a "bear harvest permit," a Class A bear license is **required** to shoot and tag a bear. It also includes all the privileges of a Class B bear license.

Class B License

(Residents: \$14, Non-residents: \$110)

Formerly called a "bear pursuit" license, a Class B license **does not allow** the license holder to shoot or tag a bear. A Class B license allows the holder to *assist* a Class A bear harvest license holder in hunting activities, including baiting and dog training. To *assist* with the bear hunt means helping a Class A license holder hunt bear by handling dogs, locating bear, or engaging in other bear hunting activities that enable the Class A licensee to locate bear. You do not need to be with a Class A license holder to place bait. The Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, placing bait, or tracking. **Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.**

Bear Hunting Back Tag

A bear hunting back tag is issued to all Class A and Class B bear licensees. Back tags must be worn while hunting bear, training dogs, or assisting the holder of a Class A bear license. The back tag must be attached to the center of the back of the outermost garment where it can be clearly seen. Back tags do not have to be worn if only placing bait.

License Issuance

The number of bear licenses available per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.

Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference system. Applicants receive a preference point every year they apply and are not drawn for a Class A permit. Applicants with the greatest number of preference points are chosen first to receive a Class A license. **Hunters must apply at least once every three years to retain their preference points.**

Class A Bear License Transfer

An adult may transfer their Class A bear license to a youth ages 12–17, provided the youth successfully completes a hunter's education course prior to the bear hunting season and that the transfer takes place by **August 1**. The youth receiving the license will retain his or her accumulated preference points. A youth may only be the recipient of a transferred license once. If you wish to transfer your Class A license, please contact your local DNR service center for more information. Bear license transfer applications can be found at all DNR Service Centers or on-line at dnr.wi.gov.

Bear Hunting Management Zones

- **Hunters who apply for and receive a Class A bear license for subzone A1 may hunt only in subzone A1. Hunters who receive a Class A bear license to hunt in zone A may hunt in subzone A1 or any part of zone A.**

Zone A has been split in an effort to shift hunting pressure from the more heavily hunted portions of zone A to subzone A1, an area which has traditionally received less pressure and has had greater numbers of bear damage and nuisance complaints. Because A1 is a subzone and falls within zone A, hunters with zone A licenses are allowed to also hunt in subzone A1.

Questions?

For updated season & license information call the WI DNR Hunting License & Season Information Line.

1-800-282-0367

Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with **any** rimfire rifle, air rifle, or center-fire rifle less than .22 caliber, .410 shotgun, fully automatic firearm, or with ammunition loaded with full metal jacket, non-expanding type bullets.
- Use handguns that are not muzzleloading handguns, unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5 1/2 inches from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed.
- Use a muzzleloading handgun unless it is at least .44 caliber with a minimum barrel length of 7 inches measured from muzzle to breech and fires a single projectile weighing not less than 138 grains.
- Use a muzzleloader, unless it is a smoothbore muzzleloading firearm of .45 caliber or larger, or a rifled muzzleloading firearm of .40 caliber or larger.
- Hunt bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds, or to use arrows which have metal broadhead blades less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
- Possess while hunting any poisoned, drugged, or explosive tipped arrow, or any crossbow (except disabled residents and nonresidents under Class A, B, C or crossbow permit or residents age 65 and older).

Note: Legal crossbows shall have a minimum draw of 100 pounds, a workable safety, and use at least 14-inch long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads. Compound bows equipped with a drawlock mechanism that is capable of holding the bow at full draw are considered crossbows. These are exempt from the 100 pound requirement but must meet the 30 pound minimum.

- Possess, place or transport, in or on any moving or stationary vehicle, any firearm, bow or crossbow, unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, and the bow or crossbow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

Other Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill, or kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs. (**An adult bear is defined as a bear 42 inches or greater in length, as measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.** Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42 inch log next to their bait to assist in determining the size of a bear.) *If you're not sure, don't shoot!*
- Possess a bear carcass unless lawfully tagged.
- Sell, buy, trade or barter bear hides unless the claws, head and teeth are attached. Bear claws and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded or bartered when separated from the hide. The sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

Road Hunting

It is illegal to:

- Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center.
- Discharge a firearm, or shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the roadway's center. This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map. Unpaved fire lanes are exempt and shown as dotted lines on county maps.

Note: *Class A and B disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact your local DNR office for more information.*

Baiting

1. Bait may be placed and used for the purpose of hunting bear or training bear dogs **statewide**, except that **it is illegal for any person** to place, use, or hunt over bait placed for bears:

- Beginning the day after the bear season closes and continuing through the following April 14th.
- In excess of **10 gallons** of bait at any site.
- That is **not** totally enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or stump which is capped with logs, rocks or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which **prevents deer from accessing the material**. Liquid scent used for hunting bear or training bear dogs does not need to be enclosed, but is part of the 10 gallon limit.
- Unless, when the bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made **inaccessible to deer**.

2. Additionally, **no person may** place, use or hunt over bait or scent that:

- Contains any animal part or animal by-product. Animal part or by-product means honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, bacon grease, animal carcass or parts of animal carcasses, but does not include liquid scents or cheese.

Note: Attracting bears by the methods commonly referred to as "honey burns" or "bacon burns" is not legal.

- Contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to bait placed in hollow logs or stumps or to scent materials.
- Is located within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards from a roadway having a posted limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
- Is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish bait automatically, mechanically, or by gravity.

3. **No person may hunt over** bait material for bear without possessing a valid unused Class A bear license and carcass tag.

4. **No person may place** bait material for bear hunting without possessing a valid Class A or Class B bear license.

5. **No person may** hunt or train dogs over a bait site that is in violation of these regulations, unless the area is completely free of bait material at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

Note: You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices. Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.



Tagging and Registration

- Immediately upon killing and before field dressing or moving the bear, you must validate the carcass tag by slitting the marks indicated on the tag, and attach it to the bear.
- If quartered, the carcass tag should be attached to the hide and both hide and carcass should be displayed at registration.
- Each bear must be registered within the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed and within the black bear management zone or subzone in which it was killed no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day after the kill. For a list of registration stations, look on the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov.
- The person who tags the bear must keep the carcass and registration tag with the butchered meat until it is consumed.

Transport

It is illegal to:

- Transport another person's unregistered bear unless accompanied by the person who was issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal.

Note: Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed bear out of state provided it is registered according to the procedures outlined under "Tagging and Registration."

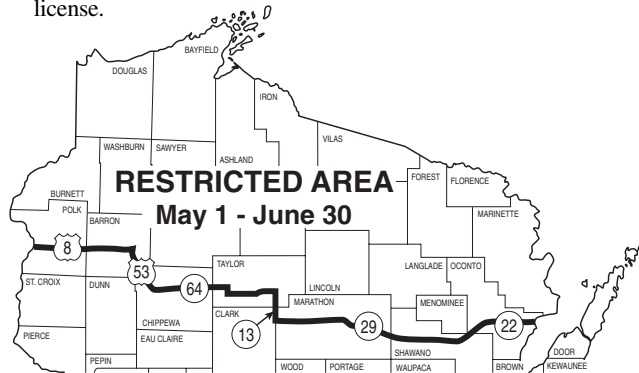
Dog Training and Use

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with dogs in Zone C.
- Train dogs by pursuing bear except from **July 1 through August 31**. Bear dog training is not permitted during the bear hunting season.
- Hunt or train dogs unless one person in the group has on their person rabies tags and dog license tags for each dog.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed, or that isn't wearing a collar with the owner's name and address attached.
- Allow the dogs to kill any wild animal.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a single pack, regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog's ownership.

Note: Dogs that fall out of the chase may be replaced, but no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of bear hunters and regardless of the dog ownership.

- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, from May 1 to June 30, north of the highways shown on the map below, **except** for approved dog trials and training on free-roaming rabbits or raccoons under a hound dog trial or training license.



Finding Public Land Open to Hunting

The DNR website provides detailed maps showing public lands in your area. Go to dnr.wi.gov and click on the Hunting link. On the left side of the screen under "Hunting Opportunities" click on Wildlife Recreation Lands to select your region. For even more detailed boundary lines, use the interactive Web Mapping Tool found on that page.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

* This publication is available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call 608-266-8204 for more information.



Bear Hunting Management Zones Map

2007 Season Dates

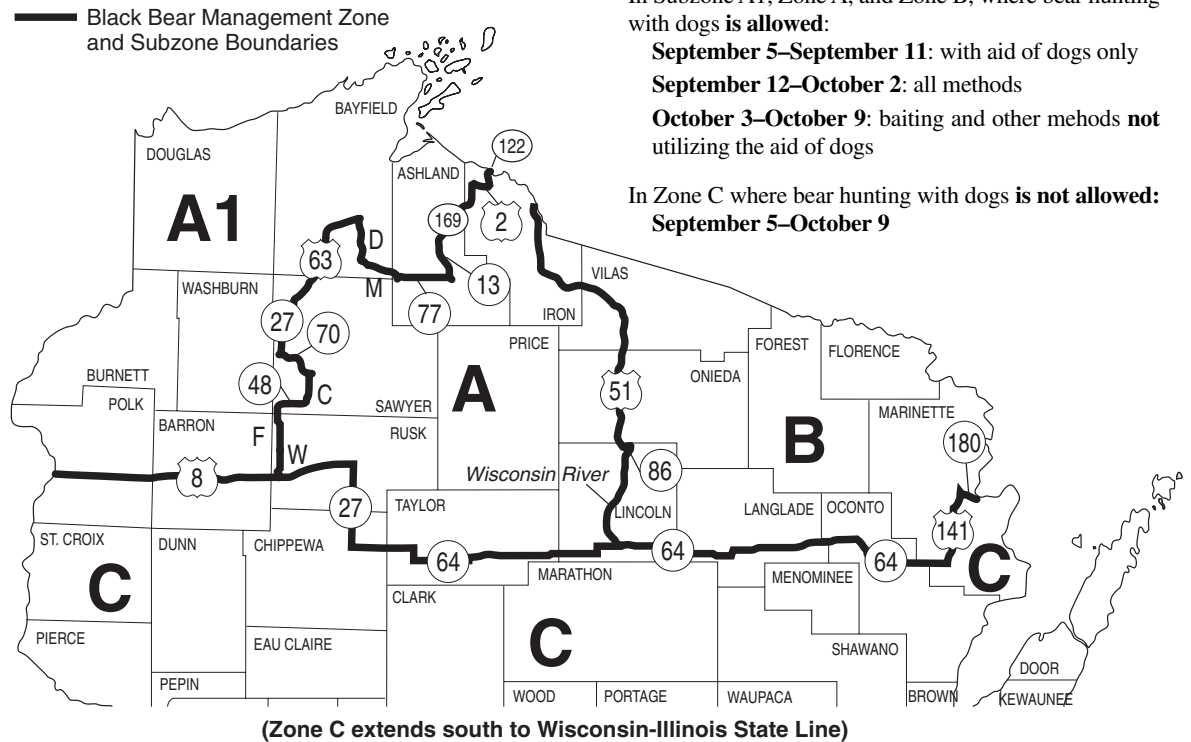
In Subzone A1, Zone A, and Zone B, where bear hunting with dogs **is allowed**:

September 5–September 11: with aid of dogs only

September 12–October 2: all methods

October 3–October 9: baiting and other methods **not** utilizing the aid of dogs

In Zone C where bear hunting with dogs **is not allowed**:
September 5–October 9



Bear Population and Harvest Trends: 1988–2006

